

**TOWN OF BIG SANDY  
PO BOX 381  
BIG SANDY MT 59520  
(406)378-2350**

January 11, 2007

Representative Dave Kasten, Chairman Long Range Planning Committee  
HD 30  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Representative Kasten & Members of the Long Range Planning Committee:

The Town of Big Sandy submitted an application to the Treasure State Endowment Program for improvements to the Town's wastewater system. Since 1999, the Town has had several discharge permit violations.

After working with our engineers, Stelling Engineering, it was apparent that we needed to address the inflow and infiltration into our collection system so that we can properly size a new treatment facility. Working with the engineering firm, we developed three phases of improvements with the first phase being the replacement of portion of the collection lines and an upgrade to our lift station. The total project cost is \$2,049,318.

The Town's TSEP application ranked #38 and as noted by the TSEP Program, "because of limited amount of TSEP funds projected for the 2009 biennium, TSEP will be unable to fund this project." Without TSEP funds, the Town's project cannot move forward. The next deadline for TSEP application will not occur until 2008; meaning, the Town's collection project will not be completed for six years.

Therefore, on behalf of the Town's residents, I strongly encourage you to support directing a small portion of surplus state funds to infrastructure improvements and in particular the Treasure State Endowment Program. These projects have already been reviewed and approved by agency staff and are ready to go. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Daren J. Schuster  
Mayor

Cc: Representative Bob Bergren, HD 33  
Representative Edith Clark, HB 28  
Representative John Musgrove, HD 34  
Senator Jerry Black, SD 14  
Senator Kim Hansen, SD 17